

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

of himself and all other plaintiffs known and unknown,	S Nº 05 CV 5 C 711
	Honorable Judge Judge ANDERSE,
v. FEB - 4 2005) DYNAMEX, INC. MICHAEL W. PORR	) MAGISTRATE JUDGE NEW &R.
DYNAMEX, INC. MICHAEL W. BORBING  OLERK, U.S. DICTRICT BOURTRY DEMAND  Defendent	
Defendent	) DEMAND
) )	F.R.C.P. 23 CLASS ACTION DEMAND

## **COMPLAINT**

NOW COMES Plaintiff, **BRADFORD MCCLURE**, on behalf of himself and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, by and through his attorney, JOHN W. BILLHORN, and for his Complaint against Defendant, **DYNAMEX INC.**, states as follows:

# I. NATURE OF ACTION

1. This action is brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §201, et seq., and the Portal-to-Portal Act, 29 U.S.C. §251 et seq., the Illinois Minimum Wage Law, 820 ILCS 105/1 et seq., and the Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act, 820 ILCS Section 115/1, et seq.

# II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. Jurisdiction arises under the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 206, 207, the Portal-to-Portal Act, 29 U.S.C. §251 <u>et seq.</u>, and for the supplemental Illinois statutory claims, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367. Venue lies in the Northern District of Illinois in that Plaintiff is a resident of this district and Defendant is engaged in business in this district.

## III. PARTIES

3. Defendant, **DYNAMEX INC.**, (hereinafter "Defendants") is engaged in the business of providing local courier services. As such, Defendant's services qualify as an enterprise engaged in commerce as defined by the FLSA. During all relevant times, Defendant was acting directly or indirectly in the interest of the employer in relation to the employee Plaintiff and, therefore, was and is an "employer" as defined under both the federal and state statutes relied upon herein.

4. Plaintiff, BRADFORD MCCLURE, (hereinafter "the named Plaintiff") and all other unnamed Plaintiffs of the class, known and unknown (hereinafter referred to as "members of the Plaintiff Class") are either present or past hourly employees of Defendants and designated as couriers for pick-up and delivery type duties. As an employee performing duties for an enterprise engaged in commerce, the named Plaintiff and all Plaintiffs similarly situated also were engaged in commerce as defined by the FLSA.

# IV. CLASS ALLEGATIONS

#### Fair Labor Standards Act

5. Pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §216(b), Count I of this action is maintained by the named Plaintiff as an opt-in representative action, for and on behalf of himself and other Plaintiffs similarly situated, who have been or will in the future be damaged by Defendant's failure to comply with 29 U.S.C. §201 et. seq. and §251 et. seq. Count II alleges a willful violation of the FLSA and seeks an additional, third year of limitations. Count III seeks liquidated damages under the Fair Labor Standards Act, Section 260. Plaintiff seeks to send Notice to all similarly situated courier employees as provided by 29 USC Section 216(b) and supporting case law.

# Illinois Minimum Wage Law

6. Pursuant to the Illinois Minimum Wage Law, 820 ILCS Section 105/1 <u>et seq.</u>, Count IV of this action is brought by the named Plaintiff as an opt-out class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, for and on behalf of all persons similarly situated. The class represented by Plaintiff consists of all persons who have been or will be employed by Defendant working as an courier pick-up and delivery person, on or after the date three (3) years prior to the filing of this action.

# Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act

7. Pursuant to Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act, 820 ILCS Section 115/1 et seq., Count V of this action is brought by the Plaintiff as an opt-out class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, for and on behalf of all persons similarly situated. The class represented by Plaintiff consists of all persons who have been or will be employed by Defendant working as courier pick-up and delivery person, on or after the date five (5) years prior to the filing of this action.

# V. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS RELEVANT TO ALL COUNTS

- 8. The named Plaintiff and all other members of the Plaintiff Class, known and unknown, at all times pertinent to the cause of action, were or are employed by Defendant, said employment being integral and indispensable to Defendant's business.
- 9. Defendant has, both in the past and presently, willfully employed members of the Plaintiff Class, including the named Plaintiff, for hours in excess of 40 in a work week, without pay for those hours over forty (40) at a rate of time and one-half his regular hourly rate, pursuant to the requirements of the federal and state statues herein relied upon.

# COUNT I

# VIOLATION OF FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

- 1-9. Paragraphs 1 through 9 are re-alleged and incorporated as though set forth fully herein as paragraphs 1 through 9 of this Count I.
- 10. Pursuant to Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §201 <u>et. seq.</u>, and the Portal-to-Portal Act 29 U.S.C. §251 <u>et. seq.</u>, the named Plaintiff, and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, known and unknown, are entitled to compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half his regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in any week during the two (2) years preceding the filing of this action.
- 11. Defendant has at all times relevant hereto failed and refused to pay compensation to its employees, including the named Plaintiff herein, at the rate of one and one-half his regular hourly wage rate for hours worked over forty (40) in a work week, all as required by the F.L.S.A.

WHEREFORE, the named Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, known and unknown, respectfully requests this Court to enter an order as follows:

- (a) awarding back pay equal to the amount of all unpaid overtime compensation for the two (2) years preceding the filing of this Complaint, according to the applicable statute of limitations:
- (b) awarding prejudgment interest with respect to the total amount of unpaid overtime compensation;
- (c) awarding Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred as a result of Defendants' violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act; and,
  - (d) for such additional relief as the Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

#### COUNT II

# WILLFUL VIOLATION OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

- 1-9. Paragraphs 1 through 9 of Count I are realleged and incorporated as though set forth fully herein as Paragraphs 1 through 9 of Count Π.
- 10. Defendant has, both in the past and presently, willfully failed to pay the named Plaintiff and members of the Plaintiff Class for work weeks in excess of forty (40) hours per week at a rate equal to one-half times their regular rate of pay, despite the fact that Defendants knew, or should have known, of the requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- 11. Defendant continues a pattern of deliberate, voluntary, intentional, and willful violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- 12. Pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, Plaintiff, and all other employees similarly situated, past or present, are entitled to compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times his regular rate of pay for all the hours worked in excess of forty (40) in any given week in three (3) years preceding the filing of this complaint.

WHEREFORE, the named Plaintiff, on behalf of themselves and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, known and unknown, respectfully requests this Court to enter an order as follows:

- (a) awarding back pay equal to the amount of all unpaid overtime compensation for one (1) additional year, totaling three (3) years preceding the filing of this Complaint;
- (b) awarding prejudgment interest with respect to the amount of unpaid overtime compensation;

- (c) awarding Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees and Court costs incurred as a result of Defendant's violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act; and
  - (d) for such additional relief as the Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

#### COUNT III

#### LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

#### UNDER THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

- 1-9. Paragraphs 1 through 9 of Count I are re-alleged and incorporated as though set forth fully herein as Paragraphs 1 through 9 of Count III.
- 10. In denying the named Plaintiff and members of the Plaintiff Class compensation at a rate of one and one-half for hours worked over forty (40) in a workweek, Defendant's acts were not based upon good faith or reasonable grounds.
- 11. The named Plaintiff and all other past and present employees similarly situated, known and unknown, are entitled to liquidated damages equal to the amount of unpaid overtime compensation, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §260.

WHEREFORE, the named Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, known and unknown, respectfully request this Court to enter an order as follows:

- (a) awarding liquidated damages equal to the amount of all unpaid overtime compensation;
- (b) awarding Plaintiff's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred as a result of Defendants' violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act; and
  - (c) for such additional relief as the Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

#### COUNT IV

# SUPPLEMENTAL STATE COURT CLAIM

## **VIOLATION OF THE ILLINOIS MINIMUM WAGE LAW**

- 1-9. Paragraphs 1 through 9 of Count I are re-alleged and incorporated as though set forth fully herein as Paragraphs 1 through 9 of this Count IV.
- 10. The Illinois Minimum Wage Law provides one and one half times their regular rate of pay must be paid to employees for work performed in excess of 40 hours in a workweek.
- 11. As the employer of Plaintiff and other persons who have performed work for the benefit of Defendant, **DYNAMEX**, **INC.** is liable for the failure to pay overtime wages to employees as complained of herein.
- 12. Throughout the relevant time periods at issue, the Illinois Minimum Wage Law provided that an employer who fails to pay the required amount of wages due an employee under the law, shall be liable to the underpaid employee or employees for the unpaid wages and for punitive damages in the amount of 2% of the amount of such underpayments for each month following the date of payment during which such underpayments remain unpaid.
- 13. Defendant's failure to pay the overtime wages as described has been willful and/or in bad faith.

WHEREFORE, the named Plaintiff requests this Court to enter an Order:

- (a) declaring and decreeing Defendant's compensation practices as described herein, and such other violations which may come to light during the prosecution of this matter, in violation of the provisions of the Illinois Minimum Wage Law;
- (b) awarding an amount of damages, to be shown by the evidence, to which Plaintiffs and other members of the Plaintiff Class are entitled;

(c) awarding the statutory punitive damages to Plaintiff and members of the Plaintiff Class, equal to 2% of the amount of unpaid overtime for each month following the date of the payment during which underpayments remain unpaid;

# Plaintiff further requests that:

- (d) this Court retain jurisdiction of the case until such time as it is assured that Defendants have remedied the compensation policies and practices complained of herein and are determined to be in full compliance with the law;
- (e) this Court order Defendant to pay to Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and litigation expenses, as provided by statute;
- (f) this Court award whatever additional relief it deems just and appropriate under the circumstances.

#### COUNT V

#### SUPPLEMENTAL STATE COURT CLAIM

#### VIOLATION OF THE ILLINOIS WAGE PAYMENT AND COLLECTION ACT

- 1-9. Paragraphs 1 through 9 of Count I are re-alleged and incorporated as though set forth fully herein as Paragraphs 1 through 9 of this Count IV.
- 10. The Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act, Section 2, defines wages as "any compensation owed to an employee by an employer pursuant to an employment contract or agreement between the 2 parties, . . . .". Payment to separated employees is termed "final compensation" and defined as "wages, salaries, earned commissions, earned bonuses . . . . and any other compensation owed the employee by the employer pursuant to an employment contract or agreement between the two parties".

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11. The Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act, Section 4 provides that every

employer shall pay "[A]ll wages earned by any employee during a semi-monthly or bi-weekly

pay period shall be paid to such employee not later than 13 days after the end of the pay period in

which such wages were earned".

12. The Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act, Section 5, provides that "[E]very

employer shall pay the final compensation of separated employees in full, at the time of

separation, if possible, but in no case later than the next regularly scheduled payday for such

employee.

13. Defendant's acts as complained of herein and described above, namely the

continuing refusal and failure to pay the earned overtime wages to Plaintiff and the Plaintiff

class, constitutes a violation of the Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act.

WHEREFORE, the named Plaintiff requests this Court to enter an Order:

(a) declaring and decreeing Defendant's compensation practices as described herein, and such other violations which may come to light during the prosecution of this matter, in

violation of the provisions of the Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act:

(b) awarding an amount of damages, to be shown by the evidence, to which Plaintiffs

and other members of the Plaintiff Class are entitled;

Plaintiff further requests that:

(c) this Court retain jurisdiction of the case until such time as it is assured that

Defendants have remedies the compensation policies and practices complained of herein and are

determined to be in full compliance with the law;

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- (d) this Court order Defendant to pay to Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and litigation expenses, as provided by statute;
- (e) this Court award whatever additional relief it deems just and appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Billhorn, attorney for

Plaintiff, and all other Plaintiffs similarly

situated, known or unknown.

John W. Billhorn BILLHORN LAW FIRM 515 N. State Street Suite 2200 Chicago, IL 60610 (312) 464-1450 Case: 1:05-cv-00711 Document #: 1 Filed: 02/04/05 Page 11 of 11 PageID #:11

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# CONSENT TO BE PARTY PLAINTIFF

This agreement, entered into on this 18th day of January, 2005, between <u>Bradford McClure</u> (Client) and John W. Billhorn, (Attorney), hereby authorizes and engages the Billhorn Law Firm to pursue back wages and other relief against <u>Dynamex</u>, Inc., and by his signature below, hereby consents to be a party Plaintiff in said law suit.

Bradford McClure